

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1221 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6576

DISTRICT OFFICES:
125 SOUTH DUBUQUE STREET
IOWA CITY, IA 52240
(319) 351-0789

150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 375
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 364-2288
1 (866) 914-IOWA

September 1, 2011

The Honorable Eric Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

Thank you for coming to Iowa and meeting with Iowa's veterans. I regret that I won't be able to meet with you in person while you are here. I hope you enjoy your visit to our great state and are able to learn more about Iowa's veterans' ideas and concerns.

While you are here, I'd like to raise two issues that I hear time and again from Iowa veterans as important to their access to care. The first is moving forward with the Knoxville, Iowa VA campus and a new location for the Knoxville Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). As you know, an enhanced use lease was awarded for the VA campus on July 1st. A community support team has already been established, and it is my hope that the VA will work together with the Knoxville Veterans Alliance and the Knoxville community to move forward with the execution of the lease and timely creation and approval of an enhanced use lease development plan that best serves Iowa's veterans and the City of Knoxville.

Additionally, as you know, part of the enhanced use lease plan includes a new Knoxville CBOC either on or off the VA campus. It is my hope that a location is secured that will ensure top-rate medical care, convenient access, and suitable parking so that our veterans can receive high quality care at the CBOC. I look forward to working with you and the Knoxville community to move plans for both the VA campus and the CBOC forward.

The second issue I'd like to raise is ongoing support for the construction of a new parking ramp at the Iowa City VA Medical Facility. I have visited the facility many times and know the parking that is available there is glaringly insufficient for the number of veterans, VA employees, and volunteers that are at the VA each day. As you know, planning is ongoing and preparations are being made to start construction on the new ramp. I look forward to partnering with you to ensure that the needed funding is available to build a new parking ramp for our veterans who receive care at the medical facility, as well as the employees and volunteers who provide care and services for them.

Thank you again for visiting Iowa's veterans. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure all those who have worn our country's uniform are served with the same dedication and honor with which they have served our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loebsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Loebsack
Iowa's Second District